



Cambridge O Level English as a Second Language 1158

Example Candidate Responses – Transcript and moderator comments Example candidate response – high

Introduction

TEACHER/EXAMINER: First, we will start with a short warm-up where I will ask you some questions to find out more about you. This part is not assessed. After the warm-up there are three assessed parts to the test: an interview, a short talk and a discussion.

Moderator comment: Read as per script

Warm up

TEACHER/EXAMINER: What is your favourite sport?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: My favourite sport would have to be football and it's my favourite sport because my dad always got me into that sport when I was younger and on top of that my older sister was always playing, so I was more influenced by her.

Moderator comment: The candidate responded relevantly to the question, supporting her response with reasons why football is her favourite sport.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Can you tell me something about your best friend?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: My best friend would also have to be my sister, other than my friend in the UK it would have to be my sister that's top tier because I can come to her, I can share personal things with her without her like um... shaming me or somewhat like um... being judgy.

Moderator comment: A relevant response

TEACHER/EXAMINER: How do you get to school every morning?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: Um... I walk um.. because it's not that far of a drive in itself so I walk and plus I'm trying to save the pollution going on in the environment So, I'm an enthusiast for that, so I either walk or I cycle.

Moderator comment: A relevant response supported with reasons why.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Why cycle?

Moderator comment: The teacher/examiner is initiating a discussion by responding to the candidate's answer to the question.

CANDIDATE: Cycle? because it's easier.

Moderator comment: A relevant response

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Easier to go to school, you mean?

Moderator comment: The teacher/examiner continues to expand the discussion.

CANDIDATE: Yeah.

Part 1 Interview

TEACHER/EXAMINER: The first assessed part of the test is an interview. I am going to ask you some questions about **languages**. Try to say as much as you can for each question. Before we start, do you have any questions?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: No, not at all.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: What can people do to learn a foreign language?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: They can either watch some videos um... or movies or shows that have the language that, that is actually inside of it. Or they can actually download some apps such as Duolingo, or like other things.

Moderator comment: Relevant response supported with examples

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Can you tell me about a time when you had to communicate in another language?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: A time that I would have to communicate in another language is at home in itself because I speak er..., I'm Somali, so I speak Somali to my parents and I go, when I go abroad to, like, the UK or Somalia I speak that language to my grandparents because they don't understand English.

Moderator comment: This question invites a response in the past tense relating to a specific event. The candidate missed the opportunity by giving a more general response in the present tense.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Mm, so you speak Somali at home and you speak Somali outside as well?

Moderator comment: The teacher/examiner is initiating a discussion by responding to the candidate's answer to the question.

CANDIDATE: Not outside, so I'll speak English when I'm outside and when I'm inside of the home in itself I speak Somali.

Moderator comment: A relevant response

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Do you think it is possible to enjoy a holiday in a country where you do not speak the language?

Moderator comment: Read as per script (Why? Why not? – omitted)

CANDIDATE: Um... Yes, I think it erm... not knowing the language actually boosts your experience because you learn along the way.

Moderator comment: A relevant response.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Why?

Moderator comment: The teacher/examiner expands the discussion with a follow-up question.

CANDIDATE: Um... Because um... you're not used to the culture when you're learning languages like, it's like it's a language barrier when you're learning the food and all of these things, so they'll take you to nice places and things like that.

Moderator comment: The candidate responds relevantly to the additional question.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: What places?

Moderator comment: The teacher/examiner continues to maintain the discussion.

CANDIDATE: Um... Like the tourist attractions and other things, like erm... the tourist attractions or places that they might find interesting in itself which would probably be somewhere that they would usually go to with their families or their friends or significant other.

Moderator comment: The candidate responds well to the additional question.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Like?

Moderator comment: The teacher/examiner asks a follow-up question.

CANDIDATE: Like, for example, when I went to Turkey, I didn't know the language in itself and um... I had a tour guide, but the tour guide didn't actually speak English so he took me to places that he knew himself of so it was more of an experience.

Moderator comment: The candidate responds well to the additional question.

Part 2 Short talk

TEACHER/EXAMINER: The second assessed part of the test is a short talk. I will give you a card and you will have one minute to read it and think about what you want to say. You should talk about the points on the card. You can't make any written notes, but you can ask me if there is anything you do not understand. You may keep the card until the end of the short talk. Here is your card.

You now have up to two minutes to talk about the topic on the card. I will stop you after two minutes, but do not worry if you have not finished your talk. Would you like to start?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: Yes. So today my topic is Family time um... so my parents are considering to, for me to look after my younger family member for the afternoon and I'm going to be choosing between visiting a park or going to the cinema.

My preference would be visiting a park because you can get more experience there and you can have more bonding time with the person in itself. Because when you are going to a cinema you're sat in front of a screen and you're not really discussing things as much and visiting a park there's more active activities such as running, cycling, football and, me myself, I like to play football with my family members especially, so I would rather for my fam... my younger family member to bond with visiting a park and just having more activities over there. And, also, when visiting a park there's other people there, like it's the public so you'll meet new people, you'll socialise more and you will be more socially aware of the things that are going on because in a park um... you would learn more much rather than going to a cinema and, for example, let's say I didn't have much money at the time, and I would go to a cinema is more expensive.

So, as much as it has its pros, its cons are it's more expensive, erm... you would have to pay for the actual ticket in itself, sometimes snacks and transport there and going to a park, it's local and it saves pollution and fossil fuels being burnt into the air because most people walk to the park or cycle there. And erm..., so what I would do is, I would take my younger family member to a park and allow them to gain the experience I used to have as a child. And my experiences were something that I would look back at all the time and erm... I would usually rather than um... me when I was younger, I would not think about the cinemas that I would go to, because cinemas are easily forgotten, easily forgotten and when watching movies, it's discussed one or two times and then it's forgotten after that, whereas visiting a park is more activities there and you get to share more experiences.

Moderator comment: The candidate uses the full two minutes, setting out the pros and cons of each option and then expressing a preference.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Thank you. Can I have the card back, please? Now let's move on to Part 3 of the test.

Moderator comment: Read as per script

Part 3 Discussion

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Now I am going to ask you a few questions related to the topic you have just talked about. This part of the test will last approximately three minutes. Before we start, do you have any questions?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: Not at all.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: What are the advantages of being an only child?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: The advantages of being an only child is erm... your parents have erm... more attention towards you and you would rather erm... get things for you all the time. You wouldn't share a room, let's say there's TV time, you don't have to wait in line for food and erm... for the food, when your parents give you food, like, you can choose which one you want to have based on your preferences so your parents will know you more.

Moderator comment: A relevant response supported with examples

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Parents and children living in the same house should always eat meals together. Do you agree?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: I hundred per cent agree with that because my family they, they built me onto when it's family time you have to put your friends away and our family time is when we're watching movies together and when we're eating, so when we're eating together, we're usually talking, we're bonding and that's our family time.

Moderator comment: A good well-developed response

TEACHER/EXAMINER: So that's for you. What about it in general?

Moderator comment: The teacher/examiner develops the discussion with a follow-up question.

CANDIDATE: I do think other people should have that and get the chance to actually bond with their family and get to know them better.

Moderator comment: A relevant response

TEACHER/EXAMINER: What would be the benefits of doing that?

Moderator comment: A further follow-up question

CANDIDATE: The benefits of doing that is your parents and your siblings would actually be your friends and they will actually know you better. They will know your preferences, what you dislike and just other things that you often prefer.

Moderator comment: A relevant response

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Is working with children a good career choice?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: Um... I think working with children is a good career choice because most children nowadays are being neglected because they are pushed towards their phones more so and iPad and such activities, but before they used to have people to go to they would have activity time, they would go to the park... I think working with children would actually build up actual good futures for them.

Moderator comment: The candidate has approached this question from the child's viewpoint rather than discussing the merits of a job working with children. However, the response is valid and well thought out.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: In what way do you think they would have a good future?

Moderator comment: The teacher/examiner develops the discussion by picking up on a particular aspect of the candidate's response.

CANDIDATE: Erm... in the sense that they were having attention towards them when they were younger, and they were spending time with people, and they got to discover and learn more things about themselves and what they want to do when they're older.

Moderator comment: A relevant response

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Some people think that technology can help improve family relationships. What do you think?

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: I believe that because erm..., personally, me myself erm... I grew a stronger bond with my sister once when she went abroad and when she went abroad to study for dentistry the only way that I could communicate was through er... social media or, like, my specific devices and we could share often funny videos with each other that we've loved or [*unclear audio*] about or share videos and memories with them.

Moderator comment: A relevant response supported with examples

TEACHER/EXAMINER: This, again, is for you. What, what about it on a general note?

Moderator comment: A good follow-up question

CANDIDATE: For a general note, I do think that is better because you can share memories with them and digital copies and things that you can show them that they can't see when you're not with them.

Moderator comment: The candidate's response here is really a repetition of her answer to the original question, nothing new is added.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: What sort of things?

Moderator comment: A good follow-up question.

CANDIDATE: (Laughs) Erm... in the sense that erm..., let's say the family member is abroad or not with the other member, you can capture the memory and the moment, and you can send it to them so that they can experience it live with you as well.

Moderator comment: Again, the candidate's response is really a rephrasing of her earlier responses.

TEACHER/EXAMINER: Thank you. This is the end of the test. End of recording.

Moderator comment: Read as per script

CANDIDATE: (Laughs) a miracle.